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Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The United Nation's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Challenges and the Perspective, and the Role of Member States

The last review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy affirms among other issues two main responsibilities for the implementation of the Strategy on national, regional and international levels.

First responsibility, to combat violent extremism and radicalization that Lead to Terrorism including, facilitating, financing and tolerating terrorist activities, and the need to extradite any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in financing, planning, perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens to identify who is behind the constraints and the obstacles against the implementation of the UN strategy in case of Yemen.

The International Organisation for LDCs – "Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés" (OIPMA), observed that, the terrorist activities still going in the country due to the tolerance with Yemen's Islah Party "Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood" who was involved of a relationship with extremist and terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaeda and ISIS according to the following facts:

It has become evident that the leaders of Yemen's Islah Party provide, financially and intellectually, support and funding for the terrorist groups. Many of the Party's leaders, notably Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani, Ali Hassan Abker, Abdullah Faisal Al-Ahdal, Hashim Mohsen Aidroos Al-Hamed, Khalid Ali Mabkhout Al-Arada and Salah Batais, have been enrolled in the list of terrorist figures, after their involvement in and contribution to many terrorist acts.

In December 2016, the United States of America Department of the Treasury decided to add Islah Party's leaders, Sheikh Hassan Ali Abaker, Abdullah Faisal Al-Ahdal and the Rahmah Charitable Organization to the US Sanctions List, for their links to AQAP, and in May 2017, the US Department of the Treasury decided to add the leaders of Yemen's Islah Party, Hashim Mohsen Aidrees, and Khaled Ali Mabkhout al-Arada, to the US Sanctions List, for their involvement in supporting and providing funds for AQAP.

According to our local representative, in March 2013, about QR 4 million was transferred from Doha to Hadramout, via Al-Amqi Money Exchange (classified by the DT as a supporter of terrorism), received by the leader of the Islah Party – Hadramout Branch, "Salah bin Musallm Batais", also a member of the Yemeni Shura Council and the Head of al-Badiah Charity Association.

The US is investigating the fate of the Qatari amount, after receiving information that a leader in al-Qaeda, called Mounir, has received a part of such amount through "al-Badiah" Charity Association, which was used by the organization in financing terrorist activities, including the purchase of weapons and vehicles.

The brother of Batais, "Khalid Batais ", who was a leader of AQAP, was killed in an air raid allegedly launched by the US on June 15, 2016 in Shabwa. At that time, Yemeni media leaders sought to hide the news of the death of "Khaled Batais" in al-Qaeda cell, in Haban, due to the critical situation of his brother "Salah Batais", the member of the Yemeni Shura Council and the prominent leader of Yemeni's Islah Party, the Muslim Brotherhood's branch in Yemen.

It is indicated that his son, "Musallm Salah Batais " was killed recently in the clashes that erupted between Hadrami Elite Forces and al-Qaeda militants, during Al-Faisal Operation launched by the United Arab Emirates armed forces. Today, Salah Batais, leader of Yemeni's Islah Party, lives in Turkey and receives all his financial dues from Qatar, and some other leaders of the Yemeni Islah Party are living in Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the leaders of this party have their influence on decision making of the Yemeni government based in Riyadh.

In 2012, the Yemeni authorities arrested the leader of ISIS, Salah Bajbaa "Abu Safiya" in Aden; then he appeared, 6 months later, in Iraq, in a video announcing his allegiance to "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi", he participated in the sit-ins

organized by the Islah Party in Aden early February 2011, and supported a number of youth in the camp, before the activists of the southern movement managed to take control of the square of Al-Mualla District during clashes with elements from the Yemeni's Islah Party, that left dead and injured behind.

In 2013, ISIS announced the death of 8 young men from Aden and published pictures of some of them. They were killed in Iraq and Syria, it seems that Abu Safiya was involved in sending these men to Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; among about 300 jihadists who were transported through Aden Airport to Turkey on almost daily flights provided by Turkish Airlines at very reduced fees, not exceeding $ 100 per person, coordination was provided by party and military leadership linked to the Islah Party.

OIPMA was informed that the investigations of a number of terrorists and around the terrorist operations in the city of Aden and other cities, revealed that many of the terrorists who carried out suicide attacks that killed hundreds of soldiers and civilians, were mostly members of the Islah Party or graduates from "al-Hikma, al-Ihsan al-Islah associations", which are the largest associations of the Islah Party (Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood).

Second responsibility: The role of member states to eliminate terrorism and preventing terrorist installations or training camps, including the preparation or organization of terrorist acts can be witnessed in the progress made by the United Arab Emirates in its implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy in case of Yemen as where we can see the key progress as follows:

The UAE's support, rehabilitation of the security services, formation of the anti-terrorism forces and military, air and intelligence support have had a great impact on achieving security, stability and victories by the Security Belt Forces against the terrorist groups in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadramout, and continuing to pursue the terrorist hotbeds,here the most recent result of these victories was the killing of Saleh Nasser al-Bakhshi "emir" of the terrorist group's branch in Aden and Abyan,, and a number of his companions by the security forces of Aden, on April 26, 2018, during their attempt to resist the security forces while being arrested.

After the liberation of Aden from the grip of the Houthis on 6 October 2015, Al-Qaeda and ISIS took advantage of the post-war situations to acquire weapons and attract young people. They used to carry out terrorist acts on a daily basis, targeting the unarmed citizens in the liberated governorates, particularly Aden, and even went so far as to roam the streets of the cities with military uniforms and weapons, raising the slogan of al-Qaeda and ISIS, and calling for the division of the cities into Islamic states led by al-Qaeda and ISIS who claimed responsibility for attacks in Yemen that targeted the temporary Yemeni government headquarters in Aden, and other headquarters of the Allied Coalition Forces, in Aden, followed by the assassination of the governor of Aden by ISIS car bomb in Aden.

In mid-August 2017, the UAE Armed Forces launched a large-scale ground military campaign by the UAE Air Force to cleanse the southern governorates of Abyan and Shabwa of al-Qaeda and ISIS elements, with the participation of the "Shabwani Elite" Forces and "Security Belt" Forces battalions.

The UAE Armed Forces-backed Shabwa Elite Forces were able to take control over the villages and districts of Shabwa oil province, 270 km north-east of Aden, amid resistance from al-Qaeda elements. The UN Panel of Experts report on Yemen dated 26 January 2018, addressed to the President of the Security Council, which stated that the Security Belt Forces and the Hadrami and the Shabwani Elite Forces are among the most active forces in the fight against terrorism.

At the same time, the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces managed to cleanse most of the villages and districts in Abyan governorate. The UAE war against al-Qaeda and ISIS resulted in a clear contraction in their military and organizational capabilities.

On August 11, 2017, the UAE announced the martyrdom of four of its soldiers, Captain Ahmad Khalifa Al Balushi, 1st Lieutenant Pilot Jassem Saleh Al Zaabi, Warrant Officer Muhammad Sa'id al-Hassani and Warrant Officer Samir Muhammad Murad Abu Bakr, who were killed while carrying out clean-up operations after al-Qaeda and ISIS, in Shabwa governorate, in Yemen.

On April 24, 2016, Mukalla city, the Hadramout coast was liberated from al-Qaeda, through the planning and support of the UAE Armed Forces of 2,000 Yemeni soldiers. The liberation of Hadramout coastal areas has had a positive impact on the Regional and international security, which was the starting point for a number of its most violent terrorist operations outside Yemen.

As a result, OIPMA, recommends the Council to call upon the states to refrain providing safe havens and to refrain from hosting and extradite any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in financing, planning, perpetration of terrorist acts, and to encourage the UN concerned bodies to cooperate with states who has taken counter-terrorism practical measures such as the UAE in the case of Yemen in order to ensure full implementation the 4 pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in line with GA resolution and Plan of Action (A/RES/60/288).